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Lambda Letters Project

32560

Vol. 2, No. 7 July, 1994 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, California 95608 Phone (916) 965-6851

Part II

Lambda Letters Needs Skilled Fund-raisers

Lambda Letters collected over 15,000 letters in the first half of 1994 and nearly 65,000 since the beginning of 1992. Clearly we are becoming a major player in the political arena. This is also reflected in the fact that legislators are now coming to us for help on their bills. Recently we received such requests from Assembly-members Richard Katz and Gwen Moore, as well as State Senators Diane Watson and Gary Hart.

Yet we are probably the only major player that does not have a team which concentrates on raising funds for the organization. This must change if we are to continue to grow in effectiveness and usefulness to the communities we represent via our letters.

The general goals of Lambda Letters have not been accomplished. Women's right to choose is not firmly protected. The right of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and people of color to live free of discrimination and intimidation is not fully established. The cure, or even an adequate treatment, for AIDS has not yet been found, and we have yet to see an adequate allocation of national resources to find a cure or treatment program for the disease. We are far from finding a cure or

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Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Issue

No Job Discrimination!

This month's lesbian/gay/bisexual issue concerns the Employment Nondiscrimination Act of 1994 (ENDA), introduced just prior to the Stonewall 25 weekend in both the House and Senate. Our Washington contacts feel fairly confident about H.R. 4636's reception in the Senate—and particularly confident about California's senators in supporting the bill. What is less certain is the bill's reception in the House of Representatives, where it is slated to go to both the Education and Labor Committee and the Judiciary Committee.

Our letters address the Chair of each of these committees and the ranking Republican in each committee, in the hope that their leadership, with our pressure, will produce an affirmative vote and get the bill out of committee and onto the floor for debate and ultimate confirmation. (Your sample letter will be addressed to only one of these people.) Introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy, Rep. Barney Frank, Rep. Gerry Studds (all D–MA), and others, ENDA forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation.

If you have a personal story to tell of job-based discrimination or harassment in the workplace based on sexual orientation, you may want to send an attached letter along with the monthly mailing. Tell them we want *equal protection, not "special" rights!*

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected

May	2,270 letters (–3.3%)
This year	11,316 letters

Dollars Spent

May	$1,727 (+48%)
This year	$6,377

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and AIDS/HIV+ status advocacy and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and persons affected by or living with AIDS/HIV+ status into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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Change of Address Form

Please change my address to:

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Name

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Address

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City, ZIP Code

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Phone

Send changes of address (incl. name, new address, city, ZIP code, and phone number) to Lambda Letters Project, 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Fund-raisers Needed

Continued from page 1

preventive measure for breast cancer. Health care for the poor, and for many people of color, is woefully inadequate.

Sadly, there are large, powerful, and very well-financed groups working to oppose the steps which must be taken to accomplish these ends. They have large teams whose sole function is to raise funds for their lobbying efforts. The effectiveness of their fund-raising effort provides them with vast financial resources which enable them to mount very effective lobbying campaigns.

Lambda Letters has demonstrated that it can mount an increasingly effective challenge to these lobbying groups. Yet, to really beat them, we need to deliver more and more letters and other communications to our elected officials. We can and do work hard to control our costs but, ultimately, generating more letters costs more money—and generating many more letters requires a lot more money. We cannot expect to generate that kind of money without a team of people who dedicate their time to raising funds for us all.

Three people have offered to join this effort; one each from Sacramento, Fresno, and Los Angeles. It would be unfair and, ultimately, ineffective to put the burden of fund-raising on their shoulders alone. We hope to establish committees in those three areas and in San Diego and the Sonoma–Marin County areas. These are the areas in which we have the greatest number of members. We need people with good fund-raising skills, but also good souls without necessarily much experience, who are willing to do the routine tasks such as stuffing envelopes, making calls, etc.

Please consider joining the effort, or, if you have a friend with good fund-raising skills, please talk to him or her about joining a fund-raising committee in your area. If you are willing, please complete and return the form below.

Yes! I believe in Lambda Letters. I will secure the future of its important work by joining a fund-raising committee in my area.

Name _____

Address _____

City, ZIP Code _____

Phone _____

One Bill Helps Children, the Other One Doesn't

In our May newsletter we mentioned the issue of move-away cases and the need to support legislation (specifically S.B. 1350, the Child Custody–Move-Away Bill) that gives children and custodial parents the right to relocate freely. Your support is still needed.

As you can imagine, move-away cases present one of the most difficult and troubling child-custody issues in California. In the typical move-away case, a married couple divorces and one parent is awarded primary physical custody of the couple's minor child(ren). At some point, a primary custodial parent may need to relocate to accompany a new spouse on a job transfer, to find a job, to pursue educational opportunities, or to live near their families of origin.

The dilemma of the situation is obvious. If custodial parents are allowed to relocate, the noncustodial parents' time with their children will be reduced. If the move is not permitted, custodial parents face the choice of being confined to the jurisdiction against their will or losing custody of their children if they move.

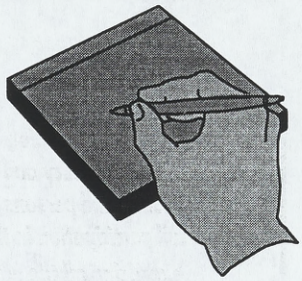
S.B. 1350, introduced by Senator Diane Watson (D), preserves the current assumption that parents with custody may change the residence of their child. This bill ensures that custodial parents relocating for good reasons will not be threatened by loss of custody or forced to endure lengthy and expensive litigation. S.B. 1350 is based on solid research and case law defining the best interests of children.

Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3.5" × 2") $10 per issue
Quarter-page ads $20 per issue
Half-page ads $30 per issue
Full-page ads $50 per issue

Send payment and your camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, to:
Lambda Letters Project
6212 Silverton Way
Carmichael, CA 95608
Deadline is the 25th of each month.

Letter to the Editor



Grateful Member Responds Regarding S.B. 1350

Dear Lambda Letters:

I want to thank you for including a letter this spring supporting S.B. 1350, the Child Custody–Move-Away Bill. I'm a single parent and I've been in court all spring to fight for my right to move my 13-year-old daughter with me while I finish my degree. Even though she clearly voiced her desire to move, we had to endure a total of six hearings, and we now have a debt of over $2,000 in attorney's fees. Being a full-time student and parent, it's a minor miracle that I can even afford school clothes, let alone expensive attorney's fees. So naturally I was thrilled to sign that letter, and I'm grateful that the issue was chosen by you.

A member

But there's an opposing bill that we must face. S.B. 1528, introduced by Senator Cathie Wright (R), would make it incredibly difficult for custodial parents to relocate with their children if the other parent objected to the move. If this bill becomes law, courts will be required to consider a list of 27 factors before deciding whether to let a child relocate with the primary caregiver. The "factors" include the child's relationship to virtually every person in his or her life: teachers, coaches, siblings, step-siblings, half-siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, the child's peer group, clubs, and so on. In addition, this bill assumes that relocations are bad for children and would require the custodial parent to show extensive proof that relaxing the law was necessary. The burden of proof is entirely on the custodial parent.

Please sign the letter in support of S.B. 1530 and in opposition to S.B. 1528.

Portions excerpted from information sent to Lambda Letters by California NOW, including a critique of S.B. 1528 from the Coalition for Family Equity.

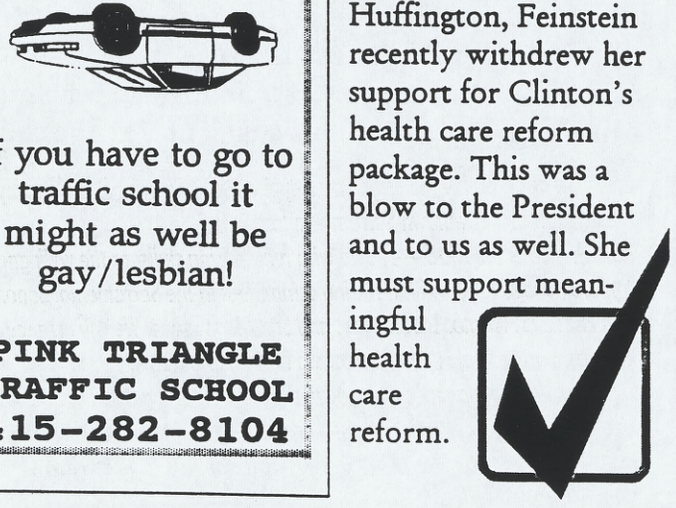
Health Care Reform in Jeopardy

There is no question that health care reform is one of the biggest issues facing President Clinton and Congress today, and that this is an issue which intimately affects *all of us* in many ways.

The specifics of various bills in Congress change daily, but there is a clear party-line split on how to pay for health care. Many Democrats want employers to pay for a good portion of their employee's health insurance, and many Republicans are opposed to either employer mandates or tax increases to pay for these costs. Obviously, employers will not be paying for the unemployed (e.g., the poor, disabled, and many retired persons). There are other differences among members of Congress, and not all of them are along party lines.

Regardless of that, there is a "Pledge for Health Care Reform" which many AIDS service organizations across the U.S. have adopted as their position. The provisions of this pledge are broad enough so that they are not affected by changes in specific bills. These are general provisions that every bill should have. It is the particulars—such as by what date should universal coverage be effective (January 1, 1997 as the President wants, or as late as January 1, 2000—or even later—as some others are arguing)—that are hard to keep up on.

This month we are sending the provisions of this pledge in a letter to Senator Dianne Feinstein. Partly because she is waging a costly and heated election battle against Rep. Michael Huffington, Feinstein recently withdrew her support for Clinton's health care reform package. This was a blow to the President and to us as well. She must support meaningful health care reform.



Support Our Advertisers!

Advertising is becoming an important source of revenue for the Lambda Letters Project. Our advertisers, quite reasonably, need to see a return on their investment when they advertise with us. If you respond to the ads in our newsletter, they continue to advertise with us. If you do not, they may pull their ads. Last month Working Assets, a socially conscious and gay-supportive long-distance phone service, placed an ad in our newsletter. Apparently the response to the ad was low and so they have pulled the ad from our July newsletter. They have said, however, that they will consider placing an ad in our August issue.

Working Assets is very supportive of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals, and of many other progressive causes. Please consider switching your long-distance phone service to Working Assets. You may do so by calling them at (800) 788-8588. *Please tell them you saw their ad in the Lambda Letters newsletter.*

Japanese-American League Supports Same-Sex Marriages

On May 22nd the national Board of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) voted 10 to 3 with two abstentions to support same-sex marriages. The vote has stirred considerable controversy within the organization and has led to the resignation of its attorney who disagrees with the policy statement adopted by the Board. The organization had previously taken stands supporting gays in the military and opposing anti-gay initiatives in Washington and Oregon. For this reason, JACL Associate Director Carol Hayashino stated that she considers the new policy statement "a very natural progression in our direction as a civil rights organization."

The JACL will hold its national convention in Salt Lake City on August 3–7. The issue is sure to be hotly debated there. Surely we owe a debt of gratitude to the JACL Board for taking a stand in support of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. Send a letter to:

Mr. Randy Senzaki, National Director, JACL
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

INS Support Needed to Help Immigrants

There are over nine million lawful, permanent residents eligible for citizenship who have not yet become naturalized. They are either unaware of their ability to become naturalized or they have faced serious delays because of the extensive backlog of applications.

Under current funding levels it would take over 50 years to naturalize all the people who are *currently* eligible to become citizens. The Los Angeles Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) office is so understaffed that it generally takes nine to ten months simply to schedule an interview with an INS agent to discuss the naturalization process!

It is very important that these individuals become naturalized so that they may participate in our nation's political process more fully. A successful naturalization drive will help counteract misinformed anti-immigration attitudes. In order to become naturalized, immigrants must learn to read, write, and speak English, and pass a citizenship test that includes 100 questions on U.S. history.

President Clinton is very interested in ensuring that those who are eligible for citizenship be naturalized, and has proposed a substantial increase in funding for the naturalization component of the INS. This month we are asking you to write to Senator Dianne Feinstein, who is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, to urge her to support the President's request and to allow more people to be granted full-fledged American citizenship. Fifteen million dollars of the President's proposed $30 million would be used for outreach purposes in order to inform those eligible of the procedures necessary to become U.S. citizens. Becoming an American citizen is still a dream that should be protected and encouraged.

Adults * Adolescents * Children

BEA BETZNER, M.F.C.C
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Counseling for the *Rainbow* Community

5120 Manzanita, Suite 100, Carmichael, CA 95608
Evening Hours Sliding Fee **(916) 564 - 8701**

Lambda Letters Scoreboard

Here is an update on legislation that our members have written on in the past few months:

State Bills

S.B. 2061 (Author, Gary Hart–D): Would allow members of the Public Employees Retirement System (state and local government employees) to enroll their domestic partners in their employer-provided health insurance plan. Lambda Letters supports S.B. 2061. Passed the Senate. Now will be considered in the Assembly. The next step is a vote, scheduled for July 6th, in the Assembly Public Employees Retirement and Social Security (PERS) Committee.

A.B. 2810 (Author, Richard Katz–D): Would allow statewide registration of domestic partners. Lambda Letters supports A.B. 2810. Passed the Assembly. Now must be considered by the Senate. It passed in the Senate Judiciary Committee by a narrow margin on June 28, 1994; the vote on the Senate floor may also be close.

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LLP Volunteer Classifieds

Letter Stuffers Needed—*People from the Sacramento area needed to help stuff our monthly mailings. This is typically done on the first Thursday of each month at a downtown Sacramento location.*

Fund-raisers Needed—*People with fund-raising skills, or the willingness to try, are needed to form fund-raising committees in the Sacramento, Sonoma, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego areas. We will arrange contacts between volunteers and others from their area.*

Persons interested in any of the above should send us their name, address, and phone number with their letters, or may call us at (916) 965-6851.

Sweat Shop Bill Passes

On May 31, 1994 the State Assembly passed A.B. 3374 authored by Johan Klehs (D). Many of you wrote in support of this bill earlier that same month. The bill increases the penalties against owners of manufacturing establishments that violate the labor codes. Table 1 here shows how Assemblymembers voted on the bill; it is now being considered in the State Senate. We hope you will call the Assemblymembers in your area and express your praise or criticism for their votes, as appropriate. Please urge your Assemblymembers to support the bill if it is sent back to the Assembly for concurrence with changes that may be made in the Senate.

Table 1. Assembly Vote on A.B. 3374

Name	Party	Yea	Nay	Phone
Aguiar, Fred	R		x	909-984-7741
Alby, Barbara	R		x	916-349-1995
Allen, Doris	R		x	714-821-1500
Alpert, Dede	D	x		619-457-5775
Andal, Dean	R		x	209-948-7479
Archie-Hudson, Marguerite	D	x		213-745-6636
Areias, Rusty	D	x		408-422-4344
Baca, Joe	D	x		909-885-2222
Bates, Tom	D	x		510-428-1423
Boland, Paula	R		x	818-368-3838
Bornstein, Julie	D	x		619-568-0408
Bowen, Debra	D	x		310-523-4831
Bowler, Larry	R		x	916-362-4161
Bronshvag, Vivien	D	x		415-479-4920
Brown, Valerie	D	x		707-546-4500
Brown, Willie	D	x		415-557-0784
Brulte, James L.	R		x	909-466-9096
Burton, John	D	x		415-557-2253
Bustamante, Cruz	D	x		209-445-5532
Caldera, Louis	D	–	–	213-680-4646
Campbell, Robert	D	x		510-372-7990
Cannella, Sal	D	x		209-576-6211
Connolly, Tom	D		x	619-465-7723
Conroy, Mickey	R		x	714-998-0980
Cortese, Dominic	D	x		408-269-6500
Costa, Jim	D	x		209-264-3078
Ducheny, Denise Moreno	D	x		619-426-1618
Eastin, Delaine	D	x		510-791-2151
Epple, Bob	D	x		310-868-1485
Escutia, Martha M.	D	x		213-582-7774
Ferguson, Gil	R		x	714-756-0665
Frazee, Robert	R		x	619-438-5665
Friedman, Barbara	D	x		213-386-8042
Friedman, Terry	D	x		818-501-8991
Goldsmith, Jan	R		x	619-486-5191
Gotch, Mike	D	x		619-294-7600
Hannigan, Tom	D	x		707-429-2383
Harvey, Trice	R		x	805-324-3300
Hauser, Dan	D	x		707-445-7014
Haynes, Ray	R		x	909-699-1113
Hoge, Bill	R		x	818-577-4470
Honeycutt, Kathleen M.	R	–	–	619-948-4444
Horcher, Paul V.	R		x	818-967-5299
Isenberg, Phil	D	x		916-324-4676
Johnson, Ross	R		x	714-738-5853
Jones, Bill	R		x	209-224-7833
Karnette, Betty	D	x		310-435-5631
Katz, Richard	D	x		818-894-3671
Klehs, Johan	D	x		510-352-2673
Knight, William J.	R		x	805-947-9664
Knowles, David	R		x	916-676-5953
Lee, Barbara	D	x		510-286-0339
Margolin, Burt	D	–	–	213-655-9750
Martinez, Diane	D	x		818-570-6121
McDonald, Juanita	D	x		310-518-3324
McPherson, Bruce	R		x	408-425-1503
Moore, Gwen	D	x		213-292-0605
Morrow, Bill	R		x	619-966-4701
Mountjoy, Richard	R		x	818-446-3134
Murray, Willard	D	x		310-516-4144
Napolitano, Grace F.	D	x		310-406-7322
O'Connell, Jack	D	x		805-966-2296
Polanco, Richard	D	–	–	213-255-7111
Pringle, Curt	R		x	714-539-7605
Quackenbush, Charles W.	R		x	408-446-4114
Rainey, Richard K.	R		x	510-933-9196
Richter, Bernie	R		x	916-345-7807
Rogan, James	R		x	Won't tell!
Seastrand, Andrea	R		x	805-549-3381
Sher, Byron	D	x		415-961-6031
Snyder, Margeret E.	D	x		209-544-9992
Solis, Hilda L.	D	x		818-369-3551
Speier, Jackie	D	–	–	415-871-4100
Statham, Stan	R		x	916-223-6300
Takasugi, Nao	R		x	805-987-5195
Tucker, Curtis R.	D	x		310-412-6400
Umberg, Tom	D	x		714-537-4477
Vasconcellos, Jon	D	x		408-288-7515
Weggeland, Ted	R		x	909-369-6644
Woodruff, Paul	R		x	909-242-6588